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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Ex-Government Worker's Comments on Drug Shortage/Import of Bulgarian Engines/Mining and Petroleum Exploitation/ Military Resources/Government Wage Scale.

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Shortage of Drugs

"There is an acute shortage of drugs in Albania. Medicine imported from the Soviet Zone of Germany and from Hungary is barely sufficient to cover hospital needs. Quinine, penicillin and streptomycin are the drugs especially in demand. It takes a good day to hunt out some penicillin in Tirana - and it costs a fortune. One ampule containing 250,000 units costs 1,500 leks. Streptomycin is in even shorter supply. It costs 350 leks per gram.

"Cosmetics are in great demand and in very short supply. The average lipstick costs 500 leks.

Import of Bulgarian Engines

"In 1952 the Minister for State Deliveries, Haki Toska, launched a plan to reorganize the mills used for grinding the government grain. A number of 250 hp engines were necessary. No engines of this size were available for export in any of the Satellite countries or in the USSR. Some countries [not specified] did have 250 hp engines available but refused to export them because such machinery was not specified in the reciprocal trade agreements. A number of small engines, 60 and 100 hp, were finally located in Bulgaria. Toska refused at first to take them. But he later had to compromise because 250 hp engines were absolutely unobtainable. The Bulgarian engines were imported.

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Mining Exploitation

5. "In spring 1952 a group of Polish engineers were working in the Albanian Ministry of Mines and also in mines in Kraba and Tepelene. The Poles were preparing recommendations for the Albanian Government on the fuller exploitation of these mines.

Petroleum Exploitation

6. "Polish, Soviet, Czech and Hungarian specialists were observed during 1952 in the oil region of Kuchova (renamed Stalin).

Military Resources

7. "The Albanian Army is generally estimated at 100,000 men. it consists of no more than 50,000 or 60,000 men. There are five divisions. Units are far from complete. one unit of 150 men which is supposed to have a full complement of 500 men. All arms are of Soviet make. About 5% of the population are in the armed forces. Under King Zog the Army consisted of 15,000 men. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

8. "A man must serve two years if he is attached to the infantry, the cavalry or the signal corps. He must serve three years if attached to armored divisions or to the Navy or Air Force.

9. there are no Soviet Army units in Albania and no Soviet air bases. In late 1952 a large contingent of young Albanian officers returned from special training courses in the USSR. 50X1-HUM

10. "Members of the Albanian Army are paid as follows:

Enlisted men(ushtar)		- 110 leks per month
Non-commissioned officers:	Tetar	- 170 " " "
	Reshter	- 210 " " "
	Kapter	- 230 " " "
	Marshall	- 230 " " "
Officers:	Aspirant	-2,500 - 3,000 leks per month
	Menllogar	-3,200 " " "
	Toger	-4,200 " " "
	Kapiten	-4,600 " " "

In addition, all army personnel receive uniforms, food and lodging. Army officers are said to receive the best pay in Albania.

Government Wage Scale

11. "Following are the average salaries of Government officials and workers:

Minister	- 18,000 leks per month
Councilor	- 9,000 - 11,000 leks per month
Department Chief	- 7,300 leks per month
Inspector	- 6,800 leks per month
Section chief	- 4,800 - 5,400 leks per month
Bookkeeper (Cat I)	- 4,800 leks per month

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Bookkeeper (Cat II)	-3,800 - 4,500	leks per month
Male Secretary	-3,800 - 4,000	" " "
Official in charge of orders and distribution of supplies	-3,600	" " "
Inventory officer	-3,000	" " "
Secretary	-2,800 -2,800	" " "
Doorman	-2,000	" " "
Charwoman	-1,800	" " " "

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